DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 216 781 PS 012 857

TITLE	Annual Report on Publicly Subsidized Child Care Services. Part II: State Preschool Program, 1979-80. Executive Summary.
INSTITUTION	California State Dept. of Education, Sacramento.
PUB DATE	82
NOTE	7p.; For related document, see PS 012 854. A Report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee as Required by Education Code Section 8243.5.
AVAILABLE FROM	Publication Sales, California State Department of Education, P.O. Box 271, Sacramento, CA 95802 ($1.25, plus sales tax for California residents).
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Day Care; *Delivery Systems; Educational Facilities; Low Income Groups; *Preschool Education; Private Agencies; *Program Costs; *Program Effectiveness; Public Agencies; State Programs
IDENTIFIERS	California; *Subsidized Child Care Services

ABSTRACT

The second part of the California State Department of Education annual report on publicly subsidized child care services, this document describes services provided by California's preschool programs during the fiscal year of 1979-80. Included are brief statistical descriptions of the children and families served, the providers of state preschool services, and the cost and quality of these services. (MP)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED216781

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
✕ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official NIE position or policy.

Executive Summary

ANNUAL REPORT ON PUBLICLY SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE SERVICES

Part II State Preschool Program

1979-80

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Calif. State Dept. of Education
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

PS 012857

A Report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee as Required by Education Code Section 8243.5

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Wilson Riles—Superintendent of Public Instruction
Sacramento, 1982

This legislative report was prepared by the Office of Child Development, California State Department of Education, and was published by the Department, 721 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814. Any questions regarding the report should be addressed to the Office of Child Development (phone: 916-322-6241).

Distributed under the provisions
of the Library Distribution Act

1982

Copies of this publication are available for $1.25 per copy, plus sales tax for California residents, from:

Publications Sales
California State Department of Education
P.O. Box 271
Sacramento, CA 95802

A list of other publications that are available from the Department, *Selected Publications of the California State Department of Education*, may be obtained by writing to the same address.

Education Code Section Requiring This Report:

Section 8243.5 Annual Report

Commencing November 1, 1977, and on or before November 1st for each year thereafter, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall submit to the Joint Budget Committee of the Legislature a descriptive report, as defined by Section 33403, on child development programs operating pursuant to this chapter during the preceding fiscal year. Each annual report shall include, but is not limited to, the following information, derived through sampling methods:

(a) Statistical data enumerating and describing children and families served by the programs, including distributions of families and children by income levels, by ethnic grouping, by children's ages, by marital status of parents, by reasons for receiving child care service (i.e., employment, training, education, protection), by public assistance status, and by family size.

(b) Statistical data enumerating and describing the characteristics of programs, including the types of programs in terms of size and type of facilities utilized, types of agencies operating programs as defined by Section 8313, and the staff-child ratios and the staff composition for each type of program and for each type of operating agency.

(c) Cost data describing the total costs and the average cost per hour of service for each type of program (as defined for purposes of subdivision (b)) and for each type of operating agency as defined by Section 8213.

(d) Evaluate data describing the quality of child development programs in accordance with measurement criteria as established by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Each annual child development report shall be in two parts: one part shall relate to subsidized child care services and one part shall relate to services under the State Preschool Program.

(Amended by Statutes of 1978, Chapter 828, Section 3.)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED

During fiscal year 1979-80, state preschools served over 26,500 children[1] from low-income families. The average child was four years old, of Hispanic background, and came from a two-parent family earning less than half of the state median income. Thus, in keeping with program guidelines, state preschool programs served primarily families needing comprehensive services for their children, rather than families who needed specific support for parent employment or training.

PROVIDERS OF STATE PRESCHOOL SERVICES

Agencies and Facilities

Data indicate that state preschools provided a wide variety of services to children and families. While most preschools were operated by public agencies and conducted in public school or school-related facilities, about one-third were operated by private agencies and conducted in settings ranging from church buildings and community facilities to private homes. Few facilities were licensed to care for more than 50 children. Most public and private facilities served between 11 and 50 children.

---

[1] Counts of the individual children served are no longer collected by the State Preschool Program. The estimate given here is a projection from the average daily enrollment, using the ratio of a.d.e. for 1979-80 to that for 1978-79. The following formula was used to develop this projection: ((a.d.e. 1979-80)/(a.d.e. 1978-79) x (number served 1978-79)). This estimate has two possible sources of error, the extent of which is not known: 1) the relationship between a.d.e. and the number of individual children served is unclear, and 2) the a.d.e. estimate for 1978-79, upon which the current projection is based, is itself an estimate. Within these limitations, however, it would appear that, on the whole, approximately the same number of children were served in fiscal year 1978-89 and fiscal year 1979-80.

Staff

Most agencies differentiated staff functions, centralizing administrative duties at the agency level. At the site level, staff time centered on providing instructional, custodial, and food services. While there was a fairly even mix of blacks and whites among preschool staff, the number of Hispanic staff was low and did not reflect the ethnic distribution of the children enrolled in the program. The reasons for these differences went beyond the scope of the study.

THE COST OF STATE PRESCHOOL SERVICES

A total of $27,016,166 was appropriated by the Legislature for the State Preschool Program in fiscal year 1979-80. Of this amount, $26,259,987 (97 percent) was allocated to provide approximately 19,200 preschool slots (one enrollment in one 3 to 4 hour session). Overall, the State Preschool agencies were reimbursed[2] an average of $7.52 per child per day. Little difference in unit costs per child per day was found between public and private agencies.

THE QUALITY OF STATE PRESCHOOL SERVICES

A survey of services provided during recent years reveals a trend among preschool agencies to provide consistently high-quality preschool services. To minimize reporting requirements, therefore, agencies were not required to submit detailed information about special services. Instead, the report reviews and summarizes information provided over the last few years. Readers interested in more detailed summaries are referred to the state preschool reports for 1976-77, 1977-78, and 1978-79.

On the whole, preschool programs provide a variety of comprehensive services beyond the daily instructional curriculum. These services include health and nutrition services, social services, parent education and involvement in program activities, and cognitive and developmental assessment. Despite family and work responsibilities, and--in many cases--language difficulties, many parents

---

[2] Reimbursed costs are reported as the lesser of the contract amount and reported expenditures. Actual reimbursements will vary slightly as a result of adjustments reflecting the level of service provided.

manage to participate regularly in their children's preschool programs. In addition to the services they provide directly, the programs provide other services, such as immunization, dental care, and family counseling, by referring families to local agencies, such as county community health facilities. In attempting to provide social services, however, many agencies report that available public services are insufficient to meet the needs of low-income families.

IMPLICATIONS

- Children served by the state preschool programs were those specified by the Legislature. State preschool services were provided primarily to children four years of age from families needing comprehensive services for their children rather than support for parent employment or training.

- Next to Migrant Child Care Services, the State Preschool Program is the greatest source of subsidized care for Hispanic children in California. However, there appears to be a need to increase the number of bilingual staff and services to limited- and non-English-speaking children.

- On an equivalent per unit basis, state preschool services cost about the same as other subsidized child development services.[3]

- State preschool programs continue to provide a variety of comprehensive services including health, nutrition, education, social services, parent involvement, and parent education.

---

[3] Considering one preschool enrollment of 3 to 4 hours as approximately half of a full-time equivalent enrollment in OCD child development programs, a comparison with Table 35 in Part I of this report indicates that, during fiscal year 1979-80, one preschool slot cost, on the average, about half that of a full-time equivalent enrollment in the Child Development Program.

81-68B DE 12622 2-82 1,500